

Docket No. 94100414(EP)USC1X1C1D3 PDDD
USSN: 09/771,062

PATENT
Art Unit: 2154

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004. Claims 1-7 are pending in the present application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 4.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,450,599 issued to Horvath, in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,398,176 issued to Dargel. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reason:

I.

Neither Horvath nor Dargel, alone or in combination teach, suggest, or describe “a pipeline for the new data words, a portion of the new data words being used to prepare the pipeline for processing at one or more stages.”

Horvath discloses sequential pipelined processing for the compression and decompression of image data. Horvath does not “prepare one or more stages for processing”. In Horvath, even if the pipeline is seen by the Examiner as being “prepared for processing”, it occurs initially and the data is processed according to this initial configuration.

For instance, if the “block” in Horvath is for a JPEG, and the operation is for decoding, the control information is read out “and the entire block is processed in accordance with the information expressed by the processing control unit” (See column 2, lines 30-33). Likewise, if

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Art Unit: 2154

the operation is to encode the block of image data is compressed in accordance with the control information. Horvath, describes a system where even if a pipeline is "prepared for processing", such an operation occurs in one and only one stage (the initial stage). In contrast, the present invention might prepare the pipeline for processing at any location in the pipeline (one or more stages). As such, Horvath does not "prepare a pipeline for processing at one or more stages" as claimed by the present invention.

Dargel is an image analyzer. Even if Dargel is seen by the Examiner as preparing a pipeline for processing at one or more stages, such a function is carried out by "global or local command signals" (See, Dargel, at Abstract). Thus, even if the command signals in Dargel are seen as preparing the pipeline for processing, it does not use "new data words" to perform the action. Instead it uses global or local command signals. Thus, Dargel does not read on the current claims of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 4 and their respective dependent claims are distinguishable and non-obvious over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Art Unit: 2154

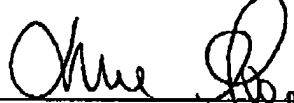
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. If it is believed that a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of the present application, or clarify matters with regard to its allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any required fees associated with this Communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-1175.

Respectfully submitted,

DISCOVISION ASSOCIATES



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Dated: December 21, 2004

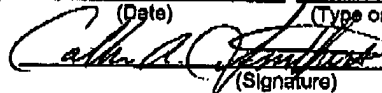
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